

Preface

This special issue (SI) of the *Indian Journal of Experimental Biology* on “New Horizons in Biotechnology” is based on the presentations made in the XX Convention of the Society was held as International Conference on New Horizons in Biotechnology (NHBT-2023), jointly organized by the CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology, Trivandrum, India and BRSI during November 26-29, 2023, at the hotel Residency Tower, Trivandrum. Dr Rajeev Sukumaran and Dr P Binod were its Conveners along with Dr V Vivekanand, Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur and Dr T Bhaskar, CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun as Co-conveners. Prof. Sudhir Sopory, President of the BRSI was the conference chair; Drs Vivek Agarwal and Madhavan Nampoothiri were co-chairs and Prof Huu Hao Ngo, University of Technology Sydney, Australia; Prof Claude Gilles Dussap, Universite Clermont Auvergne, France and Prof Samir Khanal, University of Hawaii, USA were conference international chairs. Prof Ashok Pandey, Chief Mentor of BRSI was General Chair of NHBT-2023. NHBT-2023 was participated and supported by the International Bioprocessing Association, France; the Centre for Energy and Environmental Sustainability (CEES)-India; Centre for Developments Communication (CDC)-India, and Elsevier, UK. It was co-sponsored by the AKS University, Satna; Khanal Foundation, USA; TKM Institute of Technology, Kollam; Shree Bhuddha College of Engineering, Kolam; and MACFAST, Thiruvalla. CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR), New Delhi extended its support by offering one special issue on the theme of NHBT-2023 in the *Indian Journal of Experimental Biology (IJEB)*, one of its premier monthly journals. *Biotech Express* was its media partner and Taylor & Francis was its book publication partner.

The scientific program of the NHBT-2023 included six themes, *viz.*, Agriculture and Plant Biotechnology, Environmental Biotechnology, Food Biotechnology, Industrial Biotechnology, Medical and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology and Synthetic Biology and Metabolic Engineering. The conference show-cased cutting-edge technological developments and offered solutions aimed at next-generation with cross-field integrated approach. NHBT-2023 also show-cased the biotechnological innovation in the areas of industrial, environmental and food & agricultural biotechnology taken place in India.

This special issue consists of papers (reviews and original full papers) which were selected based on the peer review in addition to two short notes from the regular manuscripts of *IJEB*. Guest Editors thank the authors for their submission and revision of the manuscript in a timely manner; we also thank the reviewers for their valuable time in critical evaluation of the MSs. Thanks are due to Dr Ranjana Agarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR and Shri RS Jayasomu and Dr Arvind Meena, Editor & Associate Editor, *IJEB*, and CSIR-NIScPR Print & Production Team for publishing this special issue.

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